



Fireworks Information



For many in Utah, the use of fireworks has become a tradition. The beautifully colored sparks fly through the air in concert with thunderous reports.

As exciting as this may seem, people often forget that they are playing with explosive materials, dangerous chemicals and combustibles that can destroy property, harm or cause death to unsuspecting victims. These deceptively simple objects explode, throwing unburned powder, hot sparks and embers through the air at high velocities and often create temperatures hotter than 1,200 degrees Fahrenheit.

In Utah over the last 10 years, 367 firework related fire incidents have been reported, resulting in over \$490,000 loss. The safest way to enjoy the thrill of fireworks, pyrotechnic displays and flame effects is to let the professionals handle these products and attend a public fireworks display, a concert where pyrotechnics react to show design, or professional community displays.

For fireworks enthusiasts who enjoy shooting their own this year, there have been some changes in prohibited areas for Sandy City. Sandy City Fire has supplied all of the permitted firework stands, maps showing this prohibited area. Citizens are also encouraged to visit the Sandy City Fire web page, <http://sandy.utah.gov/government/fire-department/fire-marshall/fireworks.html>, or visit your location fire station to learn more about the prohibited areas. On the website as well as in the fire stations we have maps and links to the interactive map to see if they live in a prohibited fireworks area. The following are some key items with the prohibited areas and the new ordinance that was adopted by the Sandy City Council:

- Prohibited areas are located in any Sandy City Park, generally above 1300 East and west of I-15
- The ordinance also includes a provision that people who live within 200 feet of waterways, trails, canyons, washes, ravines, wildland-urban interface or vacant lots with unmanaged landscape are prohibited from discharging fireworks.
- If you reside in an area that borders Sandy or are on unincorporated land you should check with your local fire department for any prohibited fireworks use.

Our intent with this ordinance and prohibited areas is not to take away from the fun that the citizens are allowed to experience over July 4th. It is however, put into place to protect the firefighters and citizens of Sandy City. Sandy's east bench is considered wildland urban interface, meaning that houses are built in and among the beautiful nature that the Wasatch Front has to offer. Because of this, a fire in these areas can prove to be extremely drastic. With the drier, hotter than normal summer, and lower than average rainfall for the Salt Lake Valley, conditions can be very dry.

In the event that you see someone shooting fireworks in a prohibited area or discharging fireworks illegally, please contact **801-799-4231**. A police officer or fire department member will investigate the report and educate the citizens. However, keep in mind that using fireworks illegally can be punishable with a fine of up to \$1000.00. In the event of a fire or injury please contact 911.

As a fire department and with the assistance of the Utah State Fire Marshal's Office, we would like to remind you to please, pay particular attention to safety recommendations and safety tips from manufacturers and retailers who sell fireworks. Reading instructions is significantly important and necessary to help reduce the chances of a destructive fire or debilitating injury.

- Purchase fireworks from reliable, licensed fireworks dealers. Read all instructions to reduce the chances of a destructive fire or debilitating injury. Follow all safety guidelines exactly.
- Aerial type fireworks are lawful. Aerial devices, also known as "multiple tube", "repeater", or "cake" fireworks often look like miniature professional displays and can travel high into the air, as much as 150 feet.
- These fireworks need sufficient space from trees, carports, structures, power lines or other high or low obstacles. Aerial or "cake" fireworks need at least a 30 foot clearance around on the ground and at least 150 foot clearance in the air
- Still not allowed: firecrackers, M-80's, cherry bombs, bottle-rockets, roman candles, single or reloadable mortars, and ground salutes. All local, state and federal laws must be adhered to.
- Use common sense at all times when handling fireworks. Do not alter, change or experiment with makeshift or any firework device and do not allow others to violate the law.
- Adults should never use alcohol or drugs or be impaired while engaged in handling, using, placing or lighting fireworks.
- Children should not handle fireworks. You must be at least 16 years of age to handle or light fireworks. Adults are to supervise any activity that includes fireworks.
- Never let children handle, play with or light fireworks. Only knowing and clear headed adults should handle fireworks.
- Store fireworks in a cool, dry place. Do not place fireworks in your pockets.

- Only use fireworks outdoors. Never play with, set or light fireworks under a carport or overhang, inside a building or compartment.
- Never shoot fireworks in windy conditions.
- Keep a bucket of water or running hose nearby during the time of lighting and disposing of fireworks and in case of an emergency.
- Wear safety glasses when shooting fireworks. Keep all unused fireworks 30 feet away from the shooting area.
- Make sure other people are out of range at a reasonable distance before lighting fireworks. Do not point or throw fireworks at people, animals or where they may not be under proper control. And remember, sparklers burn at 1200 degrees Fahrenheit. They are extremely deceptive in nature and can be an extraordinarily dangerous device in the hands of children and can cause serious burns and injuries if not cared for properly.
- Light fireworks one at a time. Do not attempt to light multiple fireworks at any time. Do not relight a firework whose fuse has burned away. Do not attempt to repair broken fireworks.
- Soak fireworks that did not ignite in a bucket of water. Once the firework is lit, get away quickly to a safe distance.
- Keep clear of the firework. Never place a body part above or around a burning firework. Never pick up a burning firework. Never look into the tube or stay close to the burning end of the device. Never hold a lit firework in your hand.
- Use caution with animals. Excitement, noise and lights can cause fear and stress.

If you have any further questions concerning restricted firework areas or firework safety please feel free to contact the fire department by email or at 801-568-2930. You can also use your smartphone to read the QR Code located below to be automatically directed to the interactive prohibited fireworks map. Have a Safe and Happy 4th and 24th of July.

